

## Atrium

12 | 2009

LANDSCAPE / PLANNING  
THE RESPONSIBILITIES  
AND OUTCOMES

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE,  
BUILDING & PLANNING



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

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## Dean's Message

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THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF DESIGN IS THAT OUR STUDENT EXPERIENCES ARE INCREASINGLY ENGAGED BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY. THE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO HAS MOVED BEYOND THE CONFINES OF A FOUR-WALLED CLASSROOM AND INTO THE WIDER WORLD.



One of the great pleasures as an academic is working with students in the classroom. The wonderful thing about the Melbourne School of Design is that our student experiences are increasingly engaged both locally and globally. The architecture studio has moved beyond the confines of a four-walled classroom and into the wider world. For example, in the past year we have run a construction focused studio in the Northern Territory, undergraduates have analysed neighbourhoods in the northern suburbs and a group of students went to Chile, where they worked on the design to relocate a town destroyed by a volcanic eruption with a group of students from the Pontifical University of Chile. Given the possibility of the active volcano erupting again, the students lived and worked on a ferry moored offshore from which field trips were taken. In October, I had the pleasure of spending a week with students, as part of the Virginia Travelling Studio. Our students partnered with those at the University of Virginia to address design opportunities in their Arts Lawn precinct.

As I write, Travelling Studios are currently the focus of an exhibition in the Wunderlich Gallery. This is reflective of the growing culture of exhibition in our Faculty. The Wunderlich Gallery has taken off this year and we have held a number of highly praised exhibitions of work. In particular, I am proud, that we recently hosted the work of alumni Peter Elliott. We anticipate holding up to two alumni exhibitions each year to celebrate the work of our graduates. The work of our alumni is not the only thing you can see at our Faculty – naturally we focus on student work, and all levels of the Architecture Building are currently displaying EYES 2009 – Everyone's Year End Show – and will soon be replaced by the Graduate Design Exhibition that features the work of our graduating students. The Wunderlich Gallery has been dark for only brief periods, for mounting new shows, so I encourage you to drop by at any time. It is likely there is something exciting to see.

The high level of activity currently fitting into a very limited space demonstrates just how our building is bursting at the seams. The need for a new building becomes more apparent as our Faculty continues to expand

and explore new ways of teaching. Now that we know our new building will be designed by Office dA and John Wardle Architects, our focus turns towards fundraising for this venture. We were informed earlier this month that our bid for funding from the Government's Education Investment Fund (Round 3) was unsuccessful. The competition for funding was already strong, and was only going to become stronger when the total funds available were reduced by almost \$200 million. This was naturally a disappointment but despite this setback, the project continues to gain momentum. I have been working closely with the University's Advancement Office and have been meeting with our alumni both locally and overseas. I am extremely grateful for the strong and generous support demonstrated both in donations for the building fund and scholarships as well as in the extensive donations of time and expertise. The design team spent time in November in workshops with staff and students to refine the brief. It is pleasing that the University has recognised the importance of the project and that the wider community has shown great interest in it, as evidenced by the number of journal and newspaper articles as well as radio

interviews on the topic. The manner in which we have approached and framed the process (described in the previous issue of Atrium) has caught everyone's attention.

Another strength of the Faculty is our active lecture program. Most prominent of these is our Dean's Lecture Series and I am pleased to announce the speakers for the coming year. Mathias Kotz from Santiago de Chile will be presenting in March, followed in May by William Cobbett, Manager of Cities Alliance in New York. August will see Jane Wernick from London present, with our final guest in October, landscape architect Catherine Mosbach from Paris. I invite you to join us on campus for these activities, as well as others we will host in 2010.

Our website - <http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/aboutus/events/> - has the details of all Events and Public Lectures and I encourage you to visit the site often as it is updated regularly.

With best wishes for a safe and happy festive season. **A**





# Why are we talking affordable housing when affordable living is the challenge?

PRU SANDERSON, BARCH (HONS), AICD, CEO, VICURBAN

'AFFORDABLE HOUSING': IT'S A BUZZ PHRASE THAT HAS EMERGED INTO THE LANGUAGE IN RECENT YEARS, AN UNFORTUNATE BY-PRODUCT OF A GROWING DIVIDE IN INCOMES IN OUR SOCIETY. BUT WHAT DOES 'AFFORDABLE' MEAN?

VicUrban is the Victorian State Government's sustainable urban development authority. Pru is an architect and property professional who specialises in creating new benchmarks in urban planning, sustainable developments and public infrastructure. She has held senior roles in the development of the Melbourne Museum and Melbourne's Federation Square and has worked internationally, managing property affairs and the delivery of major infrastructure in South Africa and Malaysia. Immediately prior to joining VicUrban Pru was CEO of Monash Property Management Pty. Ltd.

VicUrban is responsible for the development of major urban renewal initiatives including Melbourne Docklands and the revitalisation of Central Dandenong and urban growth projects across Melbourne and provincial Victoria. Other initiatives include design excellence, community infrastructure, environmental performance and affordable housing.

At VicUrban, she is driving new achievements in environmental planning, the delivery of affordable housing, urban design excellence and the creation of effective communities. Pru is a Director of the Zoological Parks and Gardens Board of Victoria and serves on the Board of the Committee for Melbourne, the National Advisory Board of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia (IPA) and is a member of the Federal Government's Built Environment Industry Innovation Council (BEIIC).

Should we be talking about affordable housing or something more? Is what is affordable today, affordable into the future? And where do the design professions fit into this picture?

The term affordable can cover a huge range of circumstances starting from financially assisted social housing, to market provided rental stock, through to housing that is financially accessible to the owner-occupier. At the government agency VicUrban, we are in the business of providing rental and owner-occupier housing. To us, the term affordable means housing for moderate income households, that is households with a total income in the order of \$70,000. This income bracket includes socially critical jobs people like childcare workers, police and nurses. The fact is that it is a real stretch for households on \$70,000 to buy a house without spending more than the accepted financial stress level of 30% of their income in meeting the cost of housing.

With a large, and growing, challenge, is it enough to provide housing of any type anywhere in our city and then to wipe our hands claiming 'problem solved'? No. What we need to do is to provide people with an AFFORDABLE LIVING solution.

That is, a whole package that stacks up, not just at a point in time but into the future. It is here, when we look at affordable living that the urban planners, urban designers, architects and builders can come to the fore.

At VicUrban, we have developed a construct of seven critical elements that combine to deliver affordable living. They are: finance, land, transport, jobs, services, amenity and housing (figure 1).

Finance solutions have been relatively slow to come in the Australian market, but a good example is the Federal Government's supported rental scheme called the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS). Home purchasers are given assistance through schemes such as the First Home Owners Grant which certainly helps many get into the market even if it does nothing to help people stay in the market. Shared equity is a financing solution that has great merit but is yet to find a place in Victoria. This is where the householder owns and carries the financial burden of a proportion (say 75%) of a home's purchase price, with the remaining 25% being held by a financing partner who would typically reap 25% of the sale price when the property is eventually sold.



'AFFORDABLE HOUSING'. IT MEANS PROVIDING HOUSING THAT IS SIZED TO SUIT CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS NEEDS IN A SOCIETY WHERE ONLY ABOUT ONE THIRD OF HOUSEHOLDS ARE TWO PARENTS WITH CHILDREN.

While financing solutions can help make housing financially accessible, the land component is all important. Land is needed that is at the right price, the right size and in the right location. With Melbourne's fast growing population, there is a heightened interest in land being made available for housing, typically on the urban fringe through mechanisms such as the extension of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Volume of land supply is however only one factor, the price of the land and its proximity to the other things people need in life are even more important and harder to solve. Melbourne@5 million sets an ambitious policy objective to accommodate more than half of Melbourne's growing population within the established areas of the city in order to leverage off existing physical and social infrastructure. For the other half, that is more than 200,000 households, the fringe is put as the solution, but unfortunately in a paradigm of only modest improvement over the current urban sprawl.

Transport is such an essential to the location of housing that it comes next. In Victoria, we are getting far better at talking about transport and land use planning in the same breath. They need to be joined at hip. Transport needs to mean not just roads, but buses, trains, trams, bike paths and pedestrian systems. In planning our cities, the further we go down this chain of solutions, the more

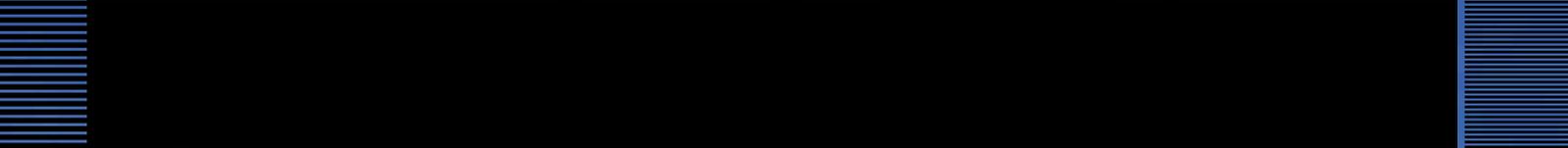
environmentally and socially acceptable and, all importantly, affordable the outcome. If we offer housing solutions in neighbourhoods with densities higher than the typical urban sprawl, we can plan them so that public transport, bicycles and walking are not just possible, but are more pleasant and easier.

We will know when we have got there when households can radically reduce dependence on independent vehicular solutions. This takes a very different shape of place that we are currently producing on Melbourne's fringe. VicUrban's project at Officer, in Melbourne's south east, is starting on the ground next year and is setting out to do just that.

But access to what? Firstly jobs, and the right jobs. It is certainly an easier proposition to place people closer to employment in the established parts of the city, but for the lower paid jobs, this needs keenly priced housing solutions in these locations. Market forces are squeezing this out and thus the Government push to reverse the trend. So the 500,000 people being planned for on the fringe. Where are their jobs? On average, there are only half as many jobs (within a sensible commute) on offer on Melbourne's fringe compared with the inner and middle ring suburbs. We are very good at rolling out dormitory suburbs.

Again, it is policy that employment centres are to be distributed across the Metropolitan area in an effort to reverse this trend, but there is a huge gulf between planning for it and making it happen. Businesses establish where it suits them. Urban planners need to start working with economic strategists to deliver activity centres that offer not only the right range of commercial accommodation to suit businesses, but also the right range of property stock to suit landlords and investors.

In order to deliver resilient urban places that offer an affordable lifestyle, services need to be at hand. It is no good having to commute by car to get to key services such as schools, child care, health care and essential retail. And it is no good waiting until the first 10,000 or so people move into a new neighbourhood before these things come on stream. While it is certainly more viable for all involved to create a market then get around to servicing it, in the meantime households have had to buy the second car and spend money on fuel. This adds greatly to the cost of living but also does nothing to build social cohesion in a new neighbourhood. If designers work in with the providers of these services, they can get smart: things like schools and communities sharing libraries and food outlets, and market halls providing weekend markets to service a need ahead of seven days a week offerings.



Amenity is the first cousin of services. Densely planned walkable neighbourhoods without amenity are the makings of depressed neighbourhoods. Affordable living needs to offer great places around modest housing solutions: a trade off between the scale and offering at home compared with the offering of the whole neighbourhood. Safe, easily accessed and readily useable parks are a great start. When planning a new neighbourhood it is all too easy to relegate the stipulated open space requirements along the drainage easements and near busy roads. There is also a propensity by many local authorities to want a smaller number of larger parks – these are more cost effective to maintain. But a 10 minute drive to the park does not serve a household well if the kids want to play safely after school when parents are busy. Pocket parks, with ready access and passive surveillance from housing service a far better social need.

Amenity goes beyond public open space, it also has a lot to do with the way town centres are planned with spaces to meet, congregate and enjoy. Efficient, quick in quick out, shopping malls are the enemy of social cohesion and belonging.

If these six elements: financing, land, transport, jobs, services and amenity are in place, there is a chance that a household can be offered an affordable

living solution, not just at the outset but into the future. It is then that affordable housing solutions can kick in.

‘Affordable housing’. It means providing housing that is sized to suit changing demographics needs in a society where only about one third of households are two parents with children. The more common are either single parent or single person households. The size of new houses in Melbourne is diametrically opposite to the demographic trend. New houses have, on average, grown something like 40% in 40 years – the third or fourth bedroom, the study, the second bathroom, the home movie theatre, the double garage, are all becoming de rigeur. The market urgently needs well design modestly sized housing stock and VicUrban has been working with a number of architectural and buildings firms to develop exactly this.

Affordable housing also means tackling operational costs, as distinct from the capital outlay. It is essential and typically overlooked in the affordability debate. Households need solutions that get them into affordable housing solutions, but also help them stay there. Housing stock needs to be designed and built to minimise maintenance costs without housing that looks like bunkers. The design also needs to address the environmental performance and thus utility outgoings. It is an urban

myth that 6 star energy rated housing will add hugely to the cost of housing – if houses are properly oriented and detailed from the outset, VicUrban has proven they can be delivered for less that \$5,000 above the cost of a 5 star energy rated house, and we are now successfully working on bringing down the cost of 7 star houses. Our Green Living program is also working with householders to ensure that energy efficient appliances are put into houses, all of which go to substantial weekly savings.

In conclusion, while affordable housing is critical, it is only one of seven critical factors. If affordable housing is addressed first and in isolation, we will fail individuals and neighbourhoods. The affordable living platform developed by VicUrban, is a way we can plan, design and build resilient neighbourhoods to stand Melbourne in good stead for 5 million people and beyond. **A**



# Repositioning Landscape Architecture Education for the Twenty First Century

JILLIAN WALLISS, COORDINATOR, MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

MEDIA HEADLINES HIGHLIGHTING BUSH FIRE, DROUGHT, SCORCHING TEMPERATURES AND DUST STORMS REMIND US OF THE POWER AND DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITY OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL SYSTEMS.

These phenomena are not new; rather they have been pervasive throughout the history of European settlement of Australia. However a renewed focus on climate change has heightened the imperative to develop design and planning practices that engage our natural and cultural systems. The Victorian bush fires of 2009 demonstrate irrevocably the importance of conceptualising human occupation as part of natural systems. Landscape architecture is well positioned to contribute to the development of this new relationship. However it is also critical to recognise that many other disciplines and practices are now underpinned by a heightened environmental consciousness, an aspect that landscape architecture has historically claimed as a distinctive territory.

The introduction of the Melbourne School of Design provides the opportunity to revisit landscape architecture education in light

of these shifting contexts. It is rare that a University chooses to implement change of the magnitude proposed by the Melbourne Model. While many design schools across Australasia are introducing the 3 +2 Bologna Model, there is evidence to suggest that many will repackage familiar content within a new structure. Change within Melbourne's landscape architecture program is multi-faceted, already demonstrated in a new profile of graduate student intake, additional staff, and a revised Masters course which features crossovers and integration with the allied disciplines of architecture, urban design and planning.

The integration of architecture and landscape architecture students in a final year Master's design studio investigating the Victorian bushfires is one such example. The starting point was a 35 acre property located on the Maroondah Highway, Buxton. This land has been used for

camping and active recreation by the Ukrainian Youth Association who has owned the land for over 35 years.

A new accommodation wing, only opened in January 2009, together with a kitchen facility and a general hall were all lost in the fires. The Association approached the Graduate School of Design to explore ideas for redeveloping the site.

The design studio was paralleled by the incremental release of information and recommendations from the Royal Commission. It soon became clear that fundamental cultural questions concerning the inhabitation of what is now recognised as one of the world's most dangerous fire region were being over looked in favour of technical issues such as the introduction of new building standards, land zoning, recommended building materials, improved warning systems and hazard reduction



Figure 1 Group Mapping: Jonas Widjaja, Katelin Butler, Ben Bindon.

policies. This multi-disciplinary studio provided the ideal opportunity to step back from standards and policies to explore new ways of inhabiting this volatile, yet beautiful environment. Students were asked to consider how design can respond to such a catastrophic event beyond an isolated technical response.

Students began by mapping the event over multiple scales ranging from the global, national, regional and local. (Figure 1) For many, these initial mappings were the catalyst for defining projects with some students electing to shift their focus to other sites including Marysville and Melbourne's peri-urban edge.

Chris Newman's concept of 'refugia' offers an alternative to the bush fire recovery recommendations offered by the Royal Commission which overwhelmingly

emphasise 'protection.' A focus on vegetation clearance as encouraged by the 10:30 rule, appropriate building materials and the provision of refuges continue to position bush fire as an event that people need to be protected from.

Following extensive analysis of scientific information relating to climate change, fuel loads and land management practices, Chris concluded that a design approach which facilitated an increase in site moisture could offer a new way for the Ukrainians to inhabit and experience their land without relying on extensive vegetation clearing, or the adoption of 'bunker' like architecture

This new 'moist' environment is achieved by heightening the existing drainage lines and water bodies combined with large scale plantings of riparian vegetation including the rare Buxton silver gum.

The introduction of surface water, together with denser canopied vegetation acts to increase the humidity within the site, and thereby reduces the risk of fire. Recreational infrastructure such as the camping grounds (Figure 3) and community hall are then re-sited within this wet environment.

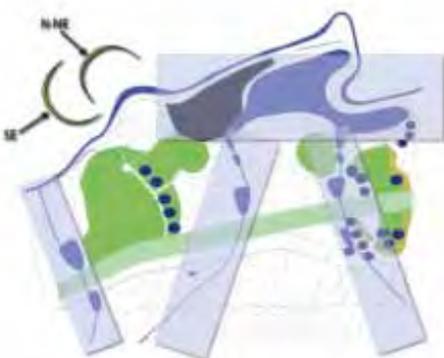


Figure 2 Site strategy for increasing moisture.



Figure 3 Gully camping amongst the Buxton silver gums.

AS THE WORK FROM THIS STUDIO DEMONSTRATES, A FOCUS ON NEW SYNERGIES AND RELATIONSHIPS ENCOMPASSING CULTURAL AND NATURAL SYSTEMS OFFERS AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH FOR ADDRESSING THE UNFOLDING CHALLENGES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

Similarly, Ben Bindon's proposal for a museum and gallery to house the history and art of the Buxton region is also shaped by water and topography. This architectural intervention exploits the site's existing gully and dam, to propose a building that is embedded into the slope and projects over the dam's surface. (Figure 4). This siting, combined with the materiality and form of the architecture, offers maximum protection from a future bush fire. Visitors wind their way through the gully vegetation and water installations before entering a series of architectural spaces that each offer distinctive views of the dam and bush land vegetation. (Figures 5 and 6) Significantly, Ben's scheme demonstrates the ability to develop architecture responsive to a bushfire event whilst also offering a high level of physical and visual connectivity with the surrounding landscape.

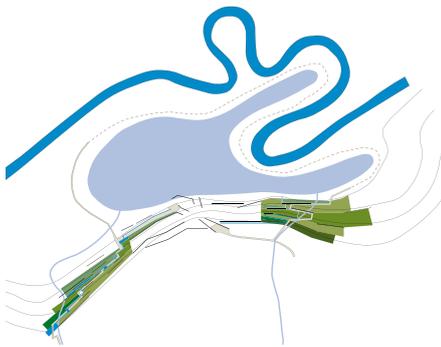


Figure 4 Siting of the museum and gallery.



Figure 5 Building embedded within the slope.



Figure 6 A new interface with the dam.

Helen Rosen's scheme steps back from the Buxton site to instead focus on the broader question of refuge. In a provocative gesture, Helen proposes an occupied wall around the perimeter of Melbourne which has multiple purposes: protecting the outer suburban areas from bush fire, providing short term refuge accommodation and operating as a defined edge to Melbourne's suburban sprawl (Figures 7-10). It not only addresses the important (and so far overlooked) question of where people from bush fire prone areas go on high risk days but also highlights the conflicting forces at odds in the development of Melbourne's outer urban areas – a demand for housing stock which is encroaching into bush fire sensitive areas.

These design projects offer new ideas for how we might inhabit the unique and powerful environment that borders

Melbourne, and provide a necessary shift in focus from much of the media coverage following Black Saturday which depicts an unsettled future characterised by heightened fire cycles, rising temperatures and more regular 'extreme' events. All of these schemes translate the extensive scientific knowledge and planning data into lived space, form and experience. Slipping between landscape architecture, architecture and urban design, these proposals demonstrate that design can offer innovative alternatives to the dominant fire responses of protection, defence and segregation.

This studio outcome mirrors the ambition of the new Masters of Landscape Architecture at Melbourne University. Since the pioneering work of Ian McHarg, landscape architecture has prided itself

on the ability to document and understand cultural and natural systems. Yet despite this grounding, it has been architecture and urban design that continue to have the biggest impact in shaping our built environment. Change will not come from greater lobbying for the role of landscape architecture. Instead landscape architecture requires a better engagement with a designed future, as distinct from historical framings which position landscape architects as environmental stewards. As the work from this studio demonstrates, a focus on new synergies and relationships encompassing cultural and natural systems offers an effective approach for addressing the unfolding challenges of the twenty-first century. **A**



Figure 7 Location of the refuge wall



Figure 8 The perimeter wall



Figure 9 Establishing a buffer



Figure 10 The mixed use wall.

# Melbourne School of Design Travelling Design Studios

LOUISA RAGAS

In 2008 the Melbourne School of Design (MSD) introduced interdisciplinary travelling studios to give students the opportunity to experience different cultures and places while engaging in diverse design processes and practice.

Travelling studios are 'working laboratories' for design thought and production and involve the exploration of complex issues. Exposure to unfamiliar cultures stimulates the students' creative, conceptual and problem-solving skills. Each group works collaboratively with design students from partner universities on 'real' projects with real challenges. In 2009 over 60 MSD students travelled to **Beijing** (China), **Santiago** (Chile), **Ahmedabad** (India) and **Virginia** (USA) and participated in a range of architectural, landscape and urban design related projects.

The Santiago studio explored sustainable urban design and landscape architectural solutions for a new settlement in the remote Province of Palena in Chile. Our students partnered with local students from Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile and together they produced sustainable and creative solutions for the proposed settlement of Nuevo Chaitén. The impact of the studio experience on the students was immense, bringing them into contact with real-life design and ecological challenges. Shanshan Diao, a Master of Architecture student, noted that 'the travel experience gave us knowledge that we couldn't gain from normal study in the classroom.'

Students who travelled to Ahmedabad, in the state of Gujarat in western India, encountered an extraordinary fusion of ancient vernacular and Modernist architecture, including work by Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn. Ashleigh St Clair, a Master of Architecture student, thought that:

'Travelling in the university context was a great experience. Not only did it help to understand the complexities of designing for a different culture and climate, and gain a new perspective on vernacular architecture, it offered the opportunity to see buildings we had studied back in Melbourne. It was a once in a lifetime experience.'

In 2010 the MSD will again offer a suite of travelling studios to four intriguing local and international destinations: **South Australia** and **Monterrey** (Mexico) in Semester 1, **Nanjing** (China) and **Genoa** (Italy) in Semester 2.

Travelling studios do incur travel costs, however the Faculty provides a generous subsidy to each student. Pre-trip seminars occur prior to the field-trip, giving students vital background for each field-trip. The studios are open to all MSD students studying a degree program. For further details visit the MSD Travelling Studio website. **A**



'TRAVELLING IN THE UNIVERSITY CONTEXT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE. NOT ONLY DID IT HELP TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF DESIGNING FOR A DIFFERENT CULTURE AND CLIMATE, AND GAIN A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE, IT OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE BUILDINGS THAT WE HAD STUDIED BACK IN MELBOURNE. IT WAS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE.'

ASHLEY ST CLAIR

## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

## Talking Spaces – Smart Green Schools Symposium

29 – 31 OCTOBER 2009

Hosted by the Smart Green Schools ARC Project, Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne.

The Chief Investigators on this ARC project are Clare Newton, Dr Dominique Hes and Professor Kim Dovey, with Research Associate Dr Susan Wilks.

The Talking Spaces symposium offered architects, educators, facilities managers and others interested in the intersection of physical spaces and learning, the opportunity to explore the issues associated with building and teaching in new educational environments.

A range of presentations, site visits to new learning spaces, and an interdisciplinary workshop broadened the participants' understanding of other professions' perspectives: the educators furthered their understanding of physical learning spaces and the architects/designers furthered their understanding of pedagogies and the spatial needs of educators.

The speakers included representatives from the professions involved in the inception, development, implementation and integration of new pedagogies, school philosophies and spatial designs. They included Dr Peter Stewart, General Manager, Infrastructure Division Department of Education, Victoria; Dr Kenn Fisher, leading educational facility specialist; Dr June Factor, expert on play; Richard Leonard, Director Hayball Pty Ltd, Mary Featherston, Featherston Design; Martin Culkin, Principal of Dandenong High School; and Julia Atkin, Learning by Design.

Issues raised included the need for: ongoing evaluation of new spaces and learning outcomes, continued cross-disciplinary communication, feeding

relevant findings back to the policymakers, incorporation of furniture and landscape into initial educational spaces design, and increasing the involvement of students and the community in the design and occupation of learning spaces.

The dissemination of relevant research into each of these areas and ongoing dialogues between educators and designers was seen as essential.

For further information about the Smart Green Schools Project and its future plans contact Clare Newton, c.newton@unimelb.edu.au (8344 6439).

The Industry Partners in the Smart Green Schools project are the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Victorian Government Architect's Office, Rubida Design, Mary Featherston Design, Hayball, H2o Architects, McGauran Giannini Soon Architects, McBride Charles Ryan Architects and SBE Melbourne. Ben Cleveland and Ken Woodman received APIA scholarships as part of the project.



## Feminist Practices

12 – 23 OCTOBER 2009

Atrium Annex Gallery, 1st Floor,  
Architecture Building  
University of Melbourne

Feminism has entered its third wave, somewhat stealthily, unwilling to disappear as the agendas of its first wave (suffrage) and second wave (equal opportunity) appear to many to have been fulfilled. The aims of the third wave are no longer singular, having broadened to address multiple issues in the wake of post-structural critique. For feminist architects issues include the gendered body as a mediator of spatial experience, the intersection of gender with other forms of marginalities including race, class, and poverty, critiques of hierarchies of authorship (through collaboration) and critiques of traditional modes of practice that essentialise site and privilege object-making over process and other sensory experiences. This exhibition included the work of 14 female architects from around the globe and has been travelling around the United States since April 2008.

**Meghal Arya** *courtyards*  
**Lori Brown** *politicizing the female body*  
**Meta Brunzema** *la marqueta:*  
*park avenue market mile*  
**Jeanine Centuori** *margins*  
**Ronit Eisenbach** *placing space:*  
*architecture, action, dimension*  
**Özlem Erdogan Erkarlan** *from*  
*detached house to apartment: gender*  
*roles in housing*  
**Liza Fior** *barking town square*  
**Cynthia Hammond** *breathing spaces*  
**Kyna Leski** *dream house*  
**Janet McGaw** *urban threads*  
**Margarita McGrath** *ghost fishing*  
**Julieanna Preston** *blaze*  
**Kim Steele** *home grown*  
**Meghan Walsh** *axismunde brazil studio*  
**Lois Weinthal** *interior-scapes*

## Building Australia's future in construction: does policy have a role to play?

20 OCTOBER 2009

**Leading construction expert Professor Paolo Tombesi will examine the dynamics of technical progress in construction, and consider the steering role public planning can play in a public lecture at the University of Melbourne.**

Professor Tombesi, the new chair in Construction at the University of Melbourne, says his lecture will seek to answer questions central to Australia's current economic and policy environment "by drawing attention to the supply-demand relationships that underpin different construction markets, and clarifying the difference between 'invention' and 'innovation' in the development of building products."

"What is the role of technical progress in a construction sector that is committed to the sustainable generation of social and economic value? Is the definition of progress in construction tied to the nature of building work and building markets, or is the result of external industry factors?"

"And finally, can we design the course of Australia's future built environment history by establishing preferred technological paths now?"

Professor Tombesi is a former Fulbright Fellow at the University of California (Los Angeles). Over the past 20 years he has contributed to many of the world's leading architectural and building publications, and is currently on the editorial boards of *Construction Management and Economics* and *UME*. A full profile is available on request.



## 10th Australasian Urban History/ Planning History Conference

7 - 10 FEBRUARY 2010

**Green fields, Brown fields, New fields**

The conference will explore past and future approaches to managing and designing for growth, development and decline. This goes far beyond debates over density, frontier development and renewal. It includes new fields of historical, policy and social research which may inform discussion of heritage, growth, environmental, economic and other issues on the questions of the extent and development of urban form.

The Conference will open at ACMI Federation Square Sunday 7 February 2010 with a screening of Australian short films about renewal, destruction and community. Five rarely-seen critiques and/or celebrations of planning, development and the changing urban landscape, followed by panel discussion. Conference attendees will receive a DVD copy of the films.

Keynote speakers are **Gary Presland**, author of award-winning *The Place for a Village: how nature has shaped the city of Melbourne* (2008) and *Aboriginal Melbourne* (1994, 2001), Fellow of RHSV, Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Honorary Associate Museum Victoria.

**Josephine Johnson** in discussion with **Carolyn Whitzman**. Josephine will talk about her work at the MMBW, and on the plan for Ballarat in the 1950s; her social profile studies for the Anglican church, conducted in the 1960s; her current interest in gated communities and planning for the active aged; and more.

Sessions and presentations, will range across issues of heritage, reuse, 'green' suburban development, cultural capital, building form, planning practice, demography, regeneration, gentrification, housing, landscape, playgrounds, iconic plans and planners and more.

To register please go to [www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/aboutus/events/conferences/greenfields](http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/aboutus/events/conferences/greenfields)

## Comparative Urbanisation and Governance

15 - 20 FEBRUARY 2010

**Melbourne School of Design students have the unique opportunity to engage with leaders in the area of urban planning and policy by enrolling in the intensive summer subject *Comparative Urbanisation and Governance*.**

This dynamic subject, running from **February 15-20**, will feature lectures and seminars with **Sheela Patel**, Founder-Director of the Mumbai-based NGO 'Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres' (SPARC); **Philip Van Ryneveld**, international consultant on intergovernmental relations, fiscal transfers and municipal finance; **Professor Richard Tomlinson** and **Associate Professor Sun Sheng Han** of Urban Planning in our faculty.

February represents Sheela Patel's much anticipated return to Melbourne and our faculty – in March 2009 she gave an intriguing presentation on SPARC, as part of our Dean's Lecture Series. Over 300 people attended her lecture, an indication of the incredible interest in this social activist and the work of SPARC.

*Comparative Urbanisation and Governance* will describe and assess regional and country differences in migration and urbanization processes, review international 'best practice' and pro-poor conceptions of the constitutional responsibilities of government for urban policy, intergovernmental relationships and fiscal transfers. The subject will also examine the capacity of cities, together with the private sectors and civil society, to respond to the pressures of urbanisation. Case studies in India, South Africa and China will be explored. The subject will be followed by an intensive in July 2010 on *Comparative Housing and Services*, focusing on slum upgrading. **A**

## Faculty Exhibitions 2009

LOUISA RAGAS

2009 SAW THE ENRICHMENT AND EXPANSION OF OUR EXHIBITION CALENDAR, A KEY ELEMENT OF THE FACULTY'S ACTIVITIES AND PROFILE.

In June, students from three Masters of Architecture and Master of Urban Design studios presented a vibrant exhibition culture has been a feature of the Melbourne School of Design (MSD), since the School's launch in 2008 and it continues to grow and diversify. It is a culture that encompasses students preparing their design and project work for public display, as well as exhibitions by local and international design practitioners and identities.

Student exhibitions are held both within and beyond our Faculty walls: in the Atrium, the Concourse, studio spaces, the newly refurbished Wunderlich Gallery and in locations such as Shed 4 at the Docklands and Melbourne Central Shopping Centre. The work exhibited is diverse in form – models, drawings, photographs, virtual worlds - and innovative in its approach to various regional and global environmental, physical, construction and design challenges.

In June, students from three Masters of Architecture Design studios presented **Grid, Corridor & Field**, an exhibition which explored the roles our existing cities and building might play in a low-carbon future. The **Liquid Futures** exhibition, also in June, focused on design proposition for a city (Melbourne) facing extreme water restrictions. Another group of Master of Architecture students presented **Regenerating Building**, redesign

propositions for the Carlton Baths and the Office of Environmental Programs.

A number of intriguing exhibitions were presented throughout the year to accompany the 2009 Dean's Lecture Series (DLS), profiling the work of international figures including Sheela Patel, Winston Shu, Carme Pinos and Odile Decq. These **DLS exhibitions** give students, academics, alumni and others the unique opportunity to survey the projects of key designers and thinkers working overseas and sometimes engage with them on-site.

In September we profiled the design submissions from the **Architectural Design Competition** for our new building in the Wunderlich Gallery. Presentation boards by the six short-listed finalists were displayed, including competition winners John Wardle Architects and Office dA. The exhibition provoked interesting debate and high attendance, as Melbourne's design community, students, staff and the media got at a look at what our physical future may hold.

In October we launched our new ABP 'Alumni Retrospective Series' with **Public Works**, a visually stunning sampling of work by **Peter Elliott Architecture + Urban Design**. The exhibition included urban infrastructure and urban architecture from this leading Melbourne-based practice. Underpinning their design

work, and evident in the images, is the practice's conviction that: 'We like cities and the constant change they undergo. We also like the idea that cities are constructed by many generations and that our contribution has to negotiate its place among many others.'

Our high profile MSD travelling studio program also presented exhibitions as part of their studio out-put. This year over 60 MSD students travelled to Beijing (China), Santiago (Chile), Ahmedabad (Gujarat, India) and Virginia (USA) and participated in a range of architectural, landscape and urban design related projects, which involved MSD students working with students from partner universities on 'real-life' projects. The subsequent displays evoked the stunning landscapes and the creative challenges each group encountered.

**EYES** and the **Graduate Design Exhibition** are annual highlights of the Faculty exhibition calendar and visual mechanisms to inspire current and future students. **EYES** featured the design work of both undergraduate and postgraduate students across all disciplines. **GradEx09** showcased the design projects by our graduating students in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design. Both exhibitions embody one of the Faculty's key directives: people working collaboratively and making a difference by leading through design. **A**



A photograph of an exhibition space. In the foreground, a long wooden table displays several architectural models made of light-colored wood. Two prominent models are tall, rectangular blocks with small, dark rectangular openings arranged in a grid pattern, resembling building facades. Other models include smaller, more complex structures and stacks of papers or drawings. In the background, several people are walking and looking at the exhibits. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the textures of the wood and the details of the models. The overall atmosphere is one of a professional and creative event.

THE WORK EXHIBITED IS DIVERSE IN FORM – MODELS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, VIRTUAL WORLDS – AND INNOVATIVE IN ITS APPROACH TO VARIOUS REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL, PHYSICAL, CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN CHALLENGES.



## Reunion: 50 Years, more or less

DR JEFFREY TURNBULL (PHD, MARCH (CALIF), DipT&RP, FRAIA)

### NOSTALGIA NOWADAYS IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS, BUT THIS REUNION CAME CLOSE TO THE MARK

Classmates in architecture and town planning, who graduated about 50 years ago during 1959-61, gathered at University House on Saturday 7 November 2009, at the invitation of the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture Building & Planning, Professor Tom Kvan. About 45 graduates, partners, relatives and friends sat down to a splendid lunch and much nostalgic reminiscing.

The first toast was to those who had especially come to the lunch from far away. Andrew Lee King Fun came from Hong Kong, Henry Loo and his daughter came from Singapore, Geoffrey Campbell came down from Canberra, and Brian Fitzpatrick brought with him wines from his vineyard near Castlemaine. Many who attended might now reside in Melbourne but have spent significant periods in their long careers studying or practicing in far away places. For example, Bryon Pedersen spent 22 years residing and working in Hong Kong.

On display were the panels submitted by the six architectural firms shortlisted for the second phase of the recently conducted competition to choose an architect for a new Faculty building.

Tom Kvan spoke about the competition and the vision for a new facility. He outlined the progress of the changing curricula for the Melbourne Model three-year Bachelor of Environments that will be followed by a suite of two-year professional Masters degrees in the various disciplines of architecture, planning, building and landscape architecture.

Myself and Andrew Lee proposed in our speeches that this group might celebrate and commemorate their reunion by a scholarship gift or donation to a specific facility in the new building. Andrew Lee has already committed a sum for the construction of a workshop.

Tom Kvan read snippets from a wonderful message sent from Canada by Graeme Cropley and then invited responses from the alumni present. The speakers who followed included the Hon. Evan Walker, John Robert Reid, Rita Avdiev, Robin Cuming, Margaret Lester, Peter Tsitas and Daryl Jackson. There were many expressions of pride in the University of Melbourne, respect for its academic achievements and hope in its ongoing programs, yet some cautionary reflections

and advice were offered. Clearly the group had enjoyed this occasion and were willing to meet again. This renewed connection with the Faculty was very much appreciated and its maintenance was felt desirable, mutually beneficial and fulfilling.

The classmates '59-'61 who came to the reunion would like to link up with others who were not able to attend or could not be contacted in time. The group remembered those who have passed on. Those who attended were: Paul Archibald, Rita Avdiev, Andrew Begg, Geoff Borrack, Ted Brear, Geoff Campbell, Darian Cassidy, Joy Cassidy, Tah-Wen Chu, Fred Coates, Robin Cuming, Brian Fitzpatrick, Trish Fullerton, Don Glasson, Daryl Jackson, Geoffrey King, Andrew Lee, Paul Lehmann, Margaret Lester, John Lester, Henry Loo, Joanna Lulofs, Daniel Meszaros, John Reid, Henry Retallick, Elizabeth Retallick, Ron Smith, Richard Stringer, Barry Stynes, Peter Tsitas Jeffrey Turnbull, Hon Evan Walker, Karina Webb and Pamela Webster **A**



VALE

## Michael Horman

PROFESSOR RUSSELL KENLEY



**It is with deep sadness that I advise the very untimely passing of Dr Michael Horman, alumnus of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning.**

Michael was an undergraduate student of Construction Management in the Faculty, completing with 1st Class Honours in 1995. Every now and then, a group of students moves beyond the basics to grapple with underlying issues. That was a feature of the class of 1995 and typically, Michael was leading the way. However, unlike his peers who chose a path to success in industry, Michael was entrapped by the allure of scientific investigation and the idea of making a difference.

He commenced his PhD in 1996 and immediately started to change things. He opened our eyes to the potential of new ways of production management. He accessed the newly emerging lean construction community, presenting a paper in Birmingham in 1997 in which he explored lean thinking in relation to

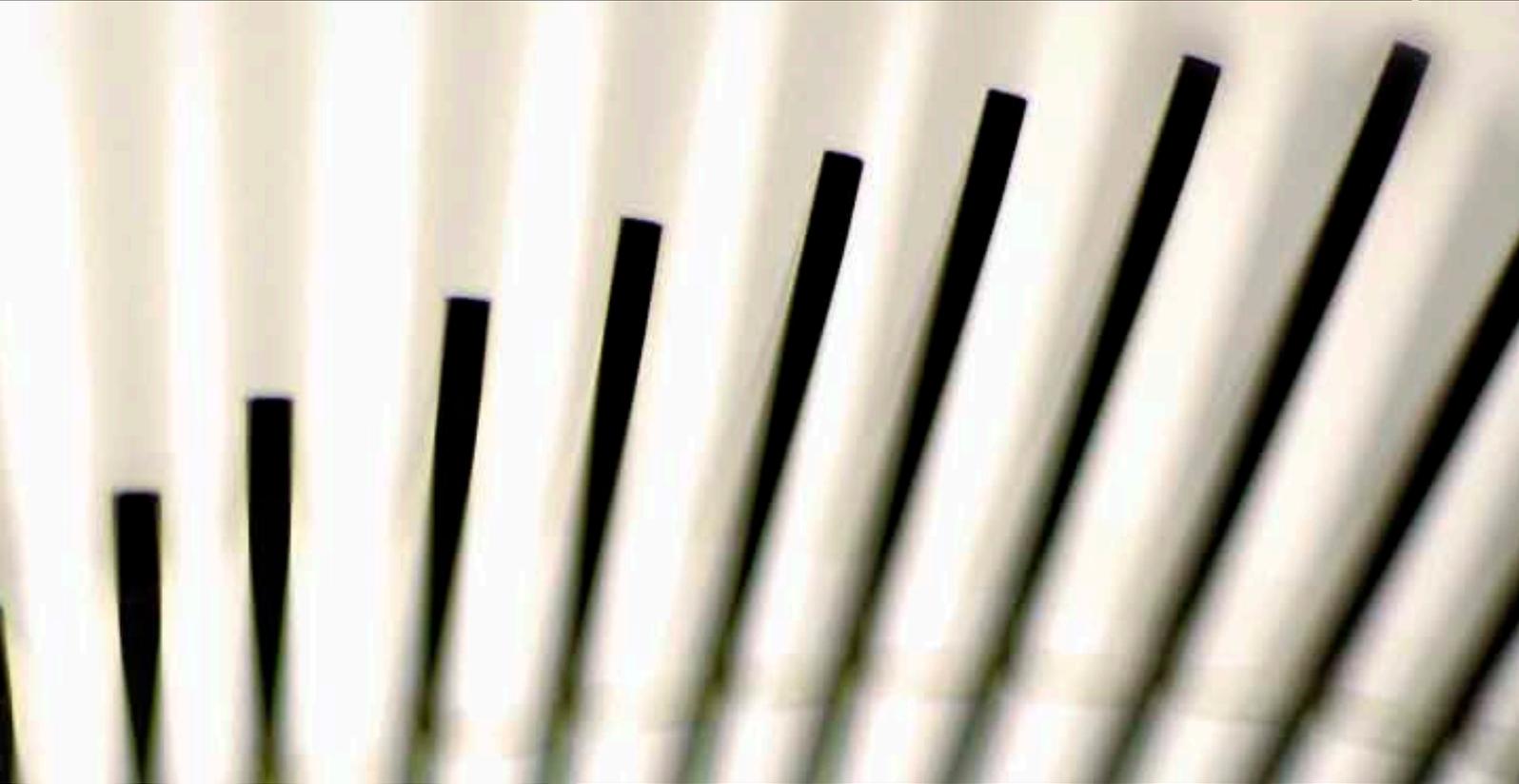
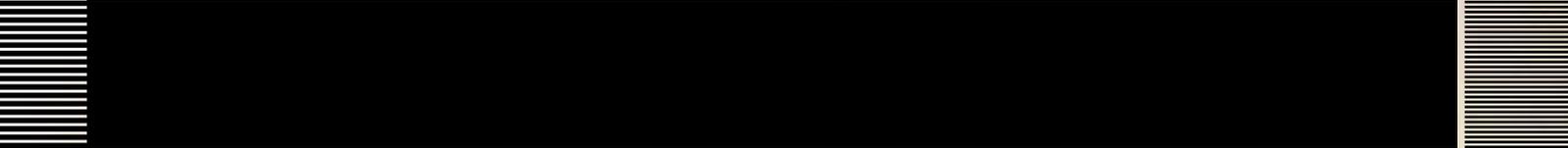
project management. His early ideas for the potential of supply chain analysis contributed toward a successful Australian Research Council grant. This creativity and innovation was a hallmark of his work.

By the time he had completed his PhD (*Process dynamics: buffer management in building project operations*) in 2000, Michael was already moving on. He commenced the next stage of his career being thrown in at the deep end in the Architectural Engineering department at Penn State University - where everyone thought he was an Engineer... Not only did he survive, he thrived! Over nine years he became a highly respected and much loved teacher.

In his characteristic way, he identified new opportunities and pursued them with vigour. He became the assistant specialty editor (lean production) for American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) Journal of Construction Engineering and Management. He sought and obtained funds for research projects and built a thriving program

supporting an active post-graduate student body. He enjoyed high profile projects such as the reconstruction of the Pentagon in the aftermath of 09/11, as evidenced by his publication for the US Department of Defense *The Pentagon Renovation Guidebook for Implementing Sustainability and Constructability*.

Most notably, Michael founded the 'Lean & Green' research initiative. ([www.engr.psu.edu/leanandgreen/](http://www.engr.psu.edu/leanandgreen/)). "Lean & Green weaves the waste eliminating principles of lean production into the project processes of green projects to create high performance processes. With this new innovation, green projects can be designed and constructed with greater efficiency and performance. When teams get the delivery process right, process efficiency is enhanced and levels of sustainability increase." To many, Michael became the guru for green production research, with many publications and as co-editor of the Journal of Green Building. Michael's career was on the cusp of greatness.



## Building Recollection

TARAS WOLF (BPD ARCHITECTURE, MARCH)

Michael was not just an academic; he was also a loving family man with a deep spirituality. He was blessed with his delightful caring wife Cheryl, daughter Olivia, and son Joshua. He was also a good friend, maintaining contact with old friends in Melbourne and exploring opportunities for collaboration. He made his home available for visitors and took the time to visit when passing through.

Michael passed away while doing what he loved – teaching. It is hard to imagine the loss to his family. It is difficult enough to cope with the loss of his intellect to the future lean and/or green building research community. He will be sorely missed by many. He is deeply missed by his friends. Michael, thanks for making a difference.

Professor Russell Kenley was Dr Michael Horman's PhD supervisor.

**Like most students in the early 90s, my first impression had to do with the building itself. It just was not cool!** But that quickly became irrelevant once we realized that the building was in fact – “Alive!”. Creativity grew in every corner of the building... a powerful cocktail of weeds and flowers. You could visit the architecture building at 3am- follow trails of crumpled yellow trace and find life forms of all sorts. That culture (of being one with the studio/subject/building/architecture), is lost.....perhaps it was CAD + the internet that killed the Architecture store..... Students in those days inspired one another with real skills and character.

One personal memory for me was the introduction of Autocad. Not all were enthusiastic to jump on board the CAD train, but we had to. Fortunately most of us could fool our teachers that some drawings were cad when in-fact they were just hand drawn in ink - something unheard of today. Those early Cad labs were real quiet places of meditation. All you hear was the humming of super expensive machines which we handled with great care. It was the perfect place to make a big dramatic scene - like breaking up with a boyfriend or girlfriend....and that did happen....at least once in my time. **A**

## From the Faculty

### CONGRATULATIONS

**Peter Ashford, Hannah Lewi and Carolyn Whitzman** have all been promoted to Associate Professor, effective in the New Year. Faculty celebrated the Dean's Honour's Awards for the 2008 academic year. The following staff members were acknowledged for their exceptional achievements:

**Emeritus Professor Graham Brawn**  
2008 Neville Quarry Architectural Education Prize

**Dr Janet McGaw**  
The John Grice Research Prize in Architecture for Urban Threads

**Professor Kim Dovey**  
Teaching Excellence

**Associate Professor Jillian Walliss**  
Teaching Excellence

**Peter Ashford**  
Teaching Excellence

**Associate Professor Sun Sheng Han**  
Teaching Excellence

Our Faculty received an award and a commendation at the recent 2009 Victorian PIA Awards for Planning Excellence in Melbourne. 'From Accidental Planner to Agent Provocateur', written by Carolyn Whitzman, David Nichols and Jana Perkovic received a commendation in 'Planning Scholarship, Research and Teaching'. The PIA award for 'Young

### EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES AND EXPEDITIONS

Planner of the Year' went to Ann-Marie Edgley, a Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development graduate in 2008.

**Paolo Tombesi**, our new Chair in Construction, presented his inaugural professorial lecture entitled 'Inventing Innovation' on October 20 in the Prince Philip Theatre. The lecture examined the dynamics of technical progress in construction, and considered the key role of public planning. Paolo is also Visiting Professor at the School of Construction Management and Engineering at the University of Reading.

**Public Works:** an exhibition of projects by Peter Elliott Architecture + Urban Design – the inaugural event of the ABP Alumni Retrospective Series - was held in the Wunderlich Gallery in October and November. The idea for this 'public works' exhibition derives from Peter Elliott's long-standing interest in the changing nature of cities, public space and public architecture. This visually stunning exhibition included urban infrastructure and urban architecture projects.

**Feminist practices** was another fascinating exhibition presented by the Faculty in October. It featured the work of 14 female architects from around the globe, including a project by Janet McGaw called 'urban threads'. The exhibition has been touring around the United States since April 2008.

Our annual end-of-year exhibitions, showcasing the work of ABP students, opened in November: **EYES (Everyone's Year End Show)** featuring the design projects of both undergraduate and MSD students and the **Graduate Design Exhibition** which showcases the innovative work of our graduating students.

**Paul Walker** served as a judge at the World Architecture Festival in Barcelona in November.

**Anoma Pieris** went on a research trip to indigenous museums in North America, which included visits to four university facilities in Vancouver, Osoyoos, Washington D.C. and New York City. Whilst in Canada, Anoma presented a paper at an interdisciplinary conference at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

**Coming up**  
**Dean's Lecture Series 2010**  
**Mathias Klotz**  
Architect, Santiago, Chile

16 March, 2010  
Carrillo Gantner Theatre  
Sidney Myer Asia Centre  
The University of Melbourne  
[www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/mathiasklotz](http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/mathiasklotz)

## FUNDING/ GRANT SUCCESS

Once again our Faculty has had great success in the latest ARC results for Discovery and Linkage Projects for 2010. Congratulations to our ARC winners:

### Discovery projects:

**Sun Sheng Han, Ray Green, Nick Low and Kevin O'Connor:** awarded \$481,000 for '*Configuring Low Carbon Cities: an exploration of the role of spatial parameters in monocentric and polycentric examples in China*'

**Carolyn Whitzman and colleagues (led by Curtin University):** awarded \$479,000 for '*CATCH: Children, Active Travel, Connectedness and Health*'.

### Linkage projects:

**Janet McGaw, Anoma Pieris, Graham Brawn and Emily Potter (Deakin):** awarded \$243,000 for '*Indigenous Placemaking in Central Melbourne: Representations, practices and creative research*'.

**Scott Drake:** awarded \$80,007 for '*Impact and Effectiveness of Personal Ventilation in Open Plan Offices: a study of the Task Air system*'.

**Anna Hurlimann and colleagues** (through Resource Management and Geography): awarded \$298,000 for '*Equitable local outcomes in adaptation to sea-level rise*'.

**Carolyn Whitzman and team** (led by Griffith University): awarded \$235,000 for '*iMATCH: Independent mobility, active travel and children's health*'.

Several faculty members had success in securing Provost Learning and Teaching Initiatives funding for 2010:

**Shanton Chang** from the Faculty of Science and **Joan Greig** for their project: *Creating an interactive postgraduate learning environment for diversely experienced student cohorts: A focus on Masters by coursework programs.*

**Clare Newton and Jenny Robins**, along with **Graham Hutchinson, Roger Hadgraft** and **Massoud Sofi** from the School of Engineering, for their project: *Fighting Faculty Frameworks: Can new pedagogies support multi-disciplinary thinking and team teaching across faculties as we begin to understand our new diverse cohorts of learners?*

**Jenny Robins, Peter Ashford, Clare Newton, Margaret Grose, Chris Heywood and Paul Walker** for their project: *Development of Capstone subjects in the five Faculty's undergraduate majors (Architecture, Construction, Landscape Architecture, Property and Urban Design and Planning).*

## BOOKS

**Jianfei Zhu's** new book '*Sixty Years of Chinese Architecture (1949-2009): History, Theory and Criticism*', was published by CABP/China Architecture and Building Press in October. Five sections in the volume have been contributed by members of the Faculty: Tom Kvan, Lin Chiahui and Jianfei Zhu.

**Muharem (Harry) Karamujic's** new book '*The Determination of Home Loan Interest Rates and an Empirical Assessment of their Cyclicity and Seasonality*' was published by VDM Verlag in October. The underlying motivation of this book is to contribute towards correcting the deficiency of research into home loan interest rates in the formal literature. It does this by pursuing two areas of research: the determination of home loan interest rates, and testing for the presence of seasonal and cyclical variations in Australian home loan interest rates (using product-level home loan interest rates data of the two major Australian banks, National Australia Bank (NAB) and Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)). **A**



## Atrium

12 | 2009

### CONTACT

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE,  
BUILDING & PLANNING  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
VICTORIA 3010 AUSTRALIA  
PHONE + 61 3 8344 6417  
WWW.ABRUNIMELB.EDU.AU

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